July 2008

PEST MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 595

PEST MANAGEMENT

Pest management is utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases, animals, and other organisms including invasive and noninvasive species, that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of the practice is to establish a pest management program that is consistent with crop production goals and environmental concerns.

This practice establishes the minimum acceptable elements of a pest management program. It includes appropriate cultural, biological and chemical controls, and combinations thereof.

The following are major considerations regarding the pest management practice:

- Use integrated pest management principles to assure techniques are environmentally sound.
- Use crop rotations to break up pest cycles.
- Use hand weeding or spot treatment when appropriate.
- Use biological control and beneficial insects.
- Scout fields and apply chemicals at the correct time and dose rate.
- Consider the effects of repetitive use of the same chemicals on pesticide resistance.
- Control erosion to reduce runoff and associated pollution.
- Use field borders and buffer strips to reduce potential for pollution from runoff.
- Become familiar with common pests including life cycles and learn alternative control techniques.
- Use chemicals safely and always follow label instructions.
- Use extreme care in preparing tank mixes and rinsing chemicals from tanks.
- Assure farm workers are properly trained in safety precautions.

The attached diagram identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

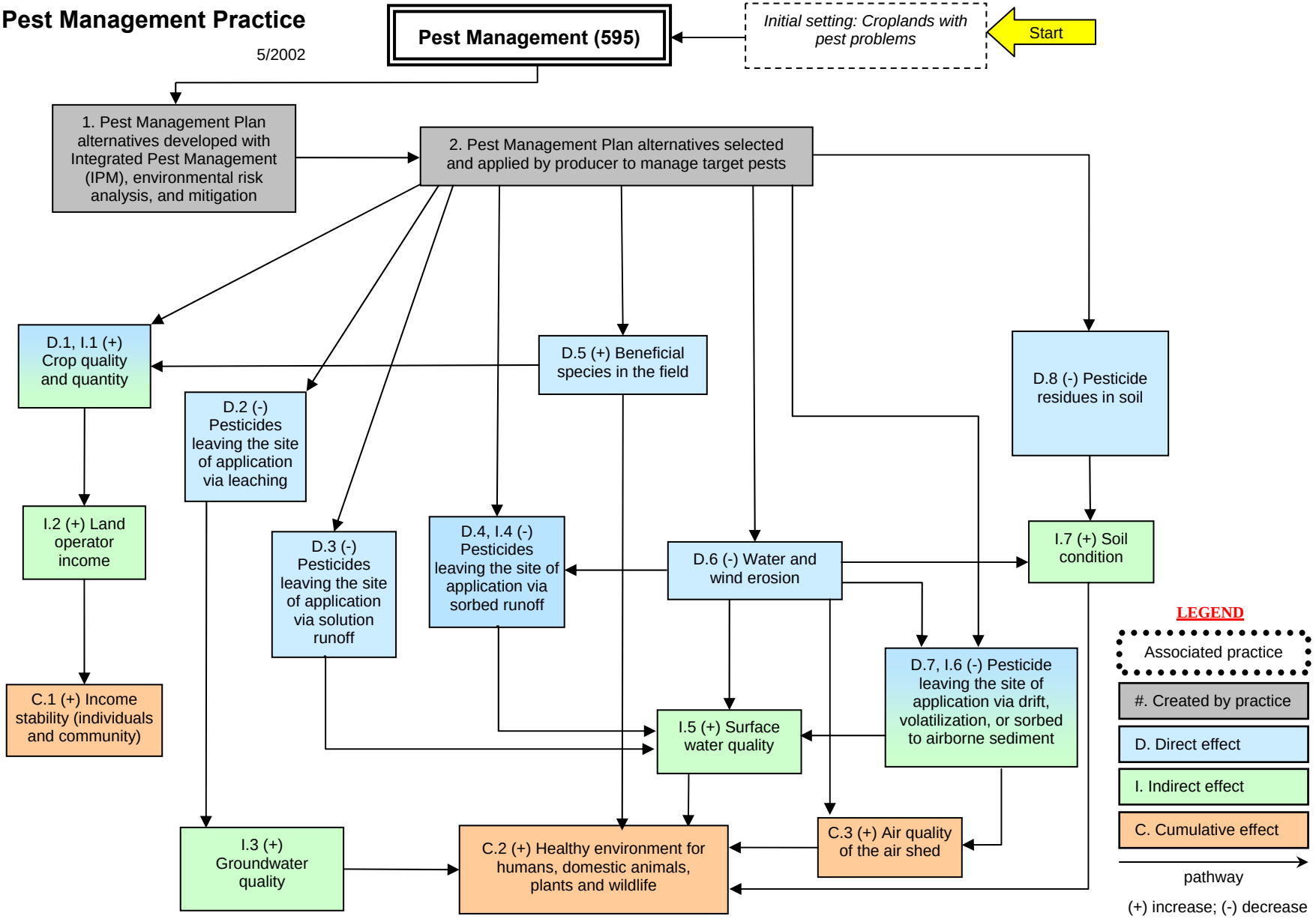
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Pest Management is commonly used in a Conservation Management System on various land uses with practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Nutrient Management (590), Filter Strip (393), Field Border (386), Brush Management (314), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Early Successional Habitat Management (647), and Riparian Forest Buffer (391).

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

Pest Management Practice

5/2002



Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.